

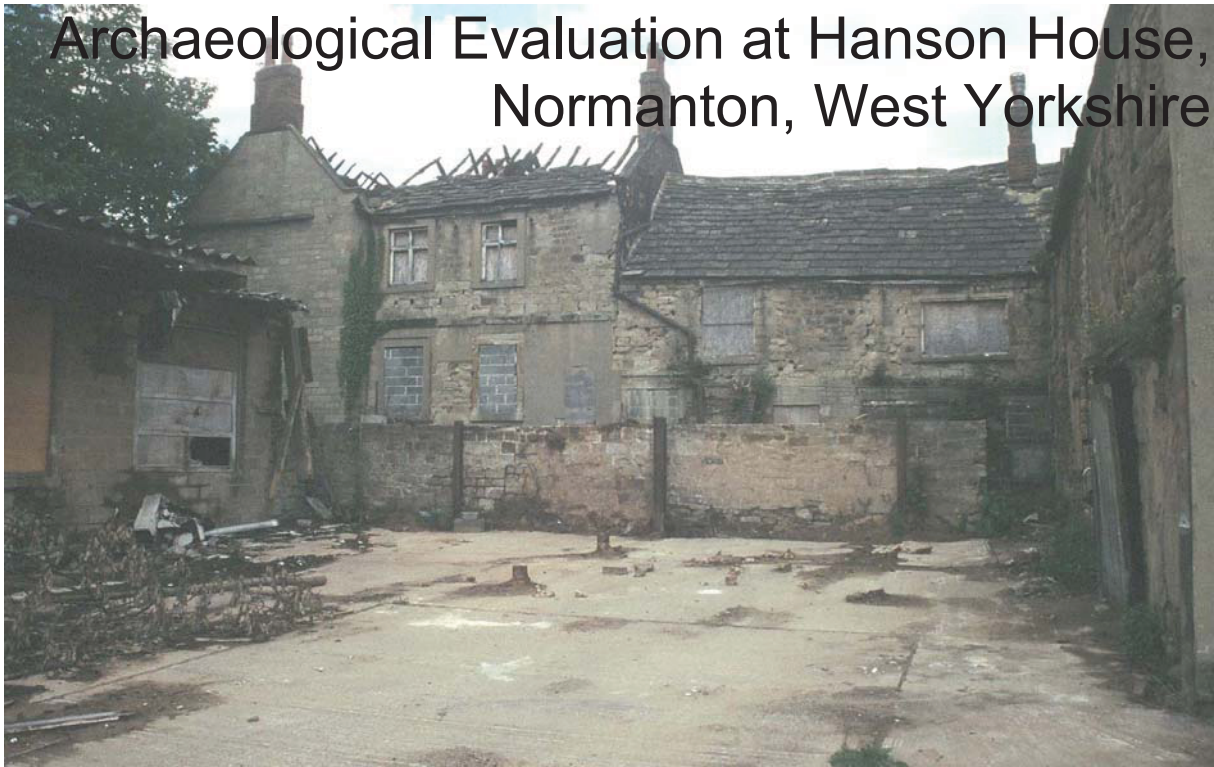


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Project Report 1198b.1(1)

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## Archaeological Evaluation at Hanson House, Normanton, West Yorkshire



December 2008

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By Richard Jackson

With contributions by C. Cumberpatch, S. Bell & A. Vaughan-Williams

Prepared For:

**Jones Homes Limited  
Green Bank House,  
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# Hanson House, Normanton

National Grid Reference: SE 388 224 (centred)

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## OASIS SUMMARY FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
OASIS identifier	Arcus2-48571	
Project title	Hanson House, Normanton.	
Short description of the project	ARCUS were commissioned by Jones Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the surrounding environment of Hanson House, a complex of grade II listed buildings thought to have originated in the sixteenth century. Recent dendrochronological analysis of timbers from the buildings has provided dates of AD1455/6 (barn) and AD1448 (house). The evaluation comprised a total of ten trenches evenly distributed around the site. Only two of the trial trenches, Trenches 5 and 8, revealed features of archaeological interest. The trenches were located to the north (Trench 5) and east (Trench 8) of the listed stone-built rectangular (barn) building. Two separate ditch features were identified, one of which contained three sherds of medieval pottery. The size and profile of the ditches suggests they were contemporary. The evidence recovered to date suggests a limited amount of activity on the site in the medieval period, probably related to agricultural or domestic enclosures.	
Project dates	13-05-08 to 04-06-08	
Previous/future work	None/potential watching brief	
Monument type and period	Medieval/post-medieval buildings	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	4 sherds of 12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> -century pottery	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County/Parish	West Yorkshire, Normanton	
Site address	Hanson House, Johnson's yard, Snyderdale Road, Normanton, Wakefield, West Yorkshire	
Site co-ordinates	SE 388 224	
Site area	0.7 hectares	
Height OD	38.21-35.46m OD	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	ARCUS	
Project brief originator	WYAAS	
Project design originator	Ian Sanderson	
Project supervisor	Richard Jackson	
Project manager	Richard O'Neill	
Sponsor or funding body	Jones Homes Limited	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
Archive Type	Location/Accession no.	Content (e.g. pottery, metalwork, etc)
Physical	Wakefield Museum	Pottery
Paper	Wakefield Museum	Report
Digital	Wakefield SMR	Pdf copy
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological Evaluation at Hanson House, Normanton, West Yorkshire	
Report no	1198b.1(1)	
Author	Richard Jackson	
Date	December 2008	

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## **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

*ARCUS were commissioned by Jones Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the surrounding environment of Hanson House, a complex of grade II listed buildings thought to have originated in the sixteenth century. Recent dendrochronological analysis of timbers from the buildings has provided dates of AD1455/6 (barn) and AD1448 (house). The project was carried out in accordance with the written specification produced by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS), on behalf of Wakefield MDC (Planning Application reference 07/00704/FUL), at the request of Jones Homes.*

*The evaluation comprised a total of ten trenches evenly distributed around the site. Only two of the trial trenches, Trenches 5 and 8, revealed features of archaeological interest. The trenches were located to the north (Trench 5) and east (Trench 8) of the listed stone-built rectangular (barn) building. Two separate ditch features were identified, one of which contained three sherds of medieval pottery. The size and profile of the ditches suggests they were contemporary. The evidence recovered to date suggests a limited amount of activity on the site in the medieval period, probably related to agricultural or domestic enclosures.*

*Following completion of fieldwork a watching brief condition was placed on further development by WYAAS. Work carried out under this condition entailed recording a well found beneath one of the red brick warehouses during demolition.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

ARCUS were commissioned by Jones Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site surrounding a group of post-medieval buildings in Normanton, in advance of renovation and re-development. An archaeological condition was placed on the development of this site due to the presence of standing Grade II listed buildings within the site boundary.

## 1.1 Site location and land use

The site of approximately 0.7 hectares in extent, and is situated on the south west side of Snydale Road, just to the south of the centre of the village of Normanton (**illustration 1**). The site was most recently utilised as a builder's yard, with extensive areas of modern concrete and tarmac paving on the central area of the site, contained between twentieth-century warehouses and workshops.

## 1.2 Geology

The drift geology of this area is Coal Measures sandstones and shales (Geological Survey Sheet 78) whilst the soils are unmapped.

## 1.3 Archaeological Background

The site is occupied by Hanson House, a complex of grade II listed buildings thought to have originated in the sixteenth century. Hanson House is a stone and timber framed building of two builds. An 18<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse is attached to a stone and timber framed building of sixteenth century or earlier date. A further stone built rectangular building of unknown function (possibly a barn) lies immediately south of the earlier section of Hanson House. Recent dendrochronological analysis of timbers from the buildings has provided fifteenth century dates of AD1455/6 (barn) and AD1448 (house).

# 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 Aims

The aims of this project were:

- to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits within the proposed development area
- to record at an appropriate level, archaeological features encountered in the evaluation trenches.

## 2.2 Rationale

The evaluation comprised excavation of ten trenches, resulting in a total excavated area of 303m<sup>2</sup>.

The trenches were distributed evenly around the proposal area in order to provide a clear assessment of the quantity and preservation of any archaeological features, structures or deposits. Slight adjustments of the trench locations were required in some cases due to presence of nearby trees or site boundaries.

## 2.3 Excavation Methodology

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator under close supervision by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist. Trench locations are shown on **illustration 2**.

Mechanical excavation ceased at the exposure of deposits immediately beneath the topsoil. All trenches were cleaned by hand and subsequently photographed and recorded in line with the specifications of the WYAAS written scheme of investigation (**appendix B**)

## 2.4 Recording

Trenches were planned at a standard scale of 1:50, or at 1:20 in trenches where discrete features or structures were present. In trenches where stratigraphy was limited sample sections were drawn. Deposits were described on pro forma context sheets. The photographic record comprised 35mm standard format colour slide and monochrome film.

## 2.5 Finds Collection Policy

Artefactual material was collected according to an explicit sampling strategy. Material that was obviously twentieth century or later in date, and derived from unstratified contexts, was not kept unless it was of exceptional intrinsic interest. Material discarded as a consequence of this policy was described and quantified in the field. This involved basic analyses such as counting artefacts, and assigning finds to broad categories, e.g. plastics, glass etc. All other finds were retained.

All retained finds were cleaned, marked, catalogued and packed in materials suitable for long-term storage, as detailed in the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) guidelines for finds work.

## 2.6 Archive

The site archive and associated material culture will be deposited at Wakefield Museum under the appropriate accession number.

## 2.7 Staffing and Timetable

The fieldwork was undertaken in May 2008, and completed in June 2008. The work was carried out by Roz Sampson, under the supervision of the author. An additional watching brief was undertaken by Richard Jackson in August 2008. The site survey was undertaken by Tom Sparrow.

# 3 RESULTS

## 3.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located at the south-west corner of the proposal area, and orientated approximately southwest-northeast. The trench measured 2.0m by 15m (**illustration 3a**). Preliminary mechanical excavation removed topsoil to a depth of 0.2m. The presence of modern refuse, such as plastic bags and bottles, as inclusions within the topsoil points to the use of this area as an informal dumping ground for local refuse. The topsoil [100] was dark grey-brown silt, with occasional small pebble inclusions. The frequent root disturbance of the topsoil, which persisted into the underlying



subsoil, correlates with the use of the western area of the site as an orchard.

The subsoil [101] measured 0.4m in thickness, and comprised mid orange-brown fine sandy silt, with infrequent inclusions of small sandstone pebbles. The interface between [100] and [101] was level and sharp (**illustration 4a**). The degree of root disturbance observed in the overlying topsoil [100] continued into [101].

The underlying natural [102] was exposed in the centre of the trench, due to a natural outcropping above the level of the surrounding subsoil (**plate 1**). Deposit [102] comprised a sandstone shale deposit, of weathered sand and approximately 35% loose platy sandstone fragments. The trench was archaeologically sterile.

Trench 1 was located with the aim of assessing the potential presence of a linear feature running along the adjacent site boundary. There was no evidence of any sealed sub-surface features, which may have accounted for the change in topology at the south-west end of the trench. This surface 'ditch' was therefore interpreted as a modern landscape feature, most likely associated with recent orchard management.

### 3.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located midway along the western site boundary, and orientated approximately northwest-southeast. The trench measured 2.0m by 16m (**illustration 3b**). The topsoil was removed by mechanical excavator to a depth of 0.2m. Topsoil [200] comprised dark brown sandy-silt of a firm consistency. The deposit was homogenous, with a clear boundary to the underlying subsoil [201] (**illustration 4b**). As with [100], there was persistent evidence of root disturbance within [200], which penetrated down to the underlying subsoil [201].

Subsoil [201] comprised mid orange-brown sand with a small silt component. The deposit was homogenous and extensive, covering the whole trenched area to a thickness of 0.4-0.5m (**plate 2**). The subsoil contained 2-3% inclusions of poorly sorted sandstone pebbles. The deposit was devoid of any evidence of archaeology.

### 3.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located at the western corner of site, and was orientated approximately northwest-southeast. The trench measured 2m by 14m (**illustration 3c**). Mechanical excavation removed topsoil [300] to a depth of 0.1-0.2m, and exposed the underlying subsoil [301] to a thickness of 0.3-0.4m (**illustration 4c**). The topsoil was very similar in composition to the topsoil in Trenches 1 and 2, with a similarly sharp interface to the underlying subsoil [301]. The subsoil [301] comprised a mid orange-brown sandy-silt with 2-3% sandstone pebble inclusions (**plate 3**). This sequence of deposits was devoid of any evidence of archaeology.

### 3.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was located in the central concreted area between the asbestos-roofed red-brick warehouses, approximately 30m south of Hanson house and its associated buildings. The trench was orientated northeast-southwest, and measured 16m by 2m (**illustration 3d**).

A machine-mounted breaker was used to open the trench through the concrete hard-standing [400]. The concrete contained a layer of metal re-enforcing rods. The concrete surface [400] measured 0.2m in thickness, and extended across the areas evaluated by trench 6 and trench 7. This surface was interpreted as contemporary to the adjacent red-brick warehouses. The concrete was underlain by a finely-crushed

layer of limestone [401], which was extensive across the whole trench to a thickness of 0.08m. Context [401] was interpreted as a bedding layer for the overlying context [400].

Trench 4 did not contain naturally-derived subsoil as in the previous trenches. Instead, the context between [401] and the underlying natural [403] comprised a mottled deposit of various shades of mid- to light brown sandy-silt. This deposit measured 0.3m in thickness and exhibited a sharp boundary with both the overlying limestone crush [401] and the underlying natural [403]. Deposit [402] was interpreted as the product of levelling activities prior to the instatement of the overlying deposit and surface (**illustration 4d**).

The underlying natural deposit [403] was a slight variation on the natural deposits exposed during the excavation of Trenches 1-3. Although mostly consisting of sandstone shale deposits, the natural at the south-west end of the trench was of a firm sandy-clay consistency (**plate 4**). As the graduation from shale to sandy clay was smooth and gradual, this was interpreted as a straightforward geological variation.

### 3.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located midway along the north west site boundary, in a small yard area formed by the buildings associated with Hanson House to the south and west, and by more modern red-brick workshops to the north. The trench was orientated approximately northeast-southwest, although a slight change in orientation had to be made during initial mechanical excavation due to the presence of a network of gas pipes to the north and to the west of the trenching area. Trench 5 measured 14.5m by 2m (**illustration 5a**).

Initial mechanical excavation removed the uppermost deposit [500], which comprised a firm black gritty deposit. The deposit measured between 0.2 and 0.25m in thickness, and was homogenous. Context [500] was interpreted as a simple yard surface. As such surfaces are less labour intensive to create than concrete surfaces; this deposit was interpreted as potentially belonging to a slightly earlier phase of site use than the ostensibly modern concrete in the vicinity of Trenches 4, 6 and 7. No artefacts were recovered from the context which may have disproved or supported this interpretation.

Mechanical excavation continued down into the subsoil [503], which comprised a mid orange-brown sandy-silt context, with approximately 20% inclusions of platy sandstone chunks, typically 5-15cm in size. This deposit measured 0.2m in thickness. The high stone inclusion concentration in this subsoil is explained by the corresponding nature of the local substrate. The natural deposit [504], beneath subsoil [503], was almost exclusively composed of sandstone aside from a natural sand lens, which outcropped in the centre of the trench (**plate 5**).

Upon the completion of cleaning by hand, a potential linear feature was observed at the south-west end of the trench. The feature was differentiated from the surrounding natural [504] by the significantly lower stone content and the pale brown fill colour. A sample section of the feature was excavated by hand, and the section was drawn at 1:10 (**illustration 6a**) and photographed accordingly. The context number [502] was ascribed to the cut, and context number [501] was ascribed to the fill. On excavation, the cut was shown to be of a gently sloping profile with a slightly u-shaped base (**plate 6**), which measured 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep. The linear appearance in plan led to the interpretation of [502] as a ditch. Feature [502] had been cut directly into the solid bedrock, and then gradually filled up with deposit [501] over time. The

fill was probably generated by natural weathering from the sides of the cut, due to the close similarity in colour and texture of the fill to the underlying substrate. Fill [501] contained approximately 40-60% medium-sized sandstone inclusions which were irregularly distributed through the section. The ditch fill was sampled according to standard guidelines. The samples were then removed from site for subsequent specialist analysis (see **section 4**).

### **3.6 Trench 6**

Trench 6 was in the central area of site, to the north-east of Trench 4. The trench measured 15m by 2m, and was orientated approximately northwest-southeast (**illustration 5b**). Initial mechanical excavation with a machine-mounted breaker was required to loosen the concrete hard-standing across the trenching area. In addition, a low modern breeze-block wall ran perpendicular across the line of the trench. This was also removed with the breaker prior to excavation. The concrete surface [600] was very similar to the concrete surface over Trench 4, and was interpreted as contemporary. Context [600] measured 0.2-0.25m in thickness. Mechanical excavation continued into the homogenous subsoil [603], which measured between 0.3 and 0.45m in thickness, and comprised a mid yellow-brown context of sandy silt.

Upon the removal of context [603], the top of the underlying natural was cleaned by hand (**plate 7**). During cleaning, the existence of a cut feature became apparent. The feature comprised a sub-oval cut [602], filled by mid-brown sandy silt with 10-20% sandstone pebble inclusions [601]. The upper 80 percent of the feature was only visible by virtue of a slight colour differentiation between the surrounding subsoil [603] and fill [601]. In totality the feature measured 1.4m in length and 0.5m in depth (**illustration 6b**). The base of the feature was cut into the natural bedrock to a depth of 0.1m. The feature was not fully visible in plan, as it continued on into the north-east facing section (**plate 8**). The width of the feature from the north-east facing section measured 0.9m. No artefacts were recovered during the excavation of [601], although the fact that [603] was cut through the existing subsoil implies the date of the feature is considerably later than the ditch features in Trenches 5 and 8, which were sealed by a similar subsoil deposit.

### **3.7 Trench 7**

Trench 7 was located towards the south-east edge of site, and orientated north east-south west. The trench measured 16m by 2m (**illustration 3e**). Initial mechanical excavation removed the concrete hard-standing and associated crushed bedding material [700]. This context measured 0.3m in thickness, and was directly underlain by context [701], a 0.2m thick deposit of black gritty silt (**illustration 4e**). This context was similar in composition to the uppermost deposit excavated in Trench 5 (**plate 9**). Removal of [701] by mechanical excavation exposed underlying subsoil [702]. This deposit measured 0.4m in thickness, and comprised a mid orange-brown sandy-silt containing approximately 40-50% inclusions of small sandstone fragments. Context [702] was homogenous and archaeologically sterile.

### **3.8 Trench 8**

Trench 8 was located towards the north-east end of site, in an apparently undeveloped part of the site. The trench was orientated northwest-southeast, and measured 16m by 2m. Initial mechanical excavation removed turf and topsoil to a depth of between 0.1 and 0.12m. Topsoil [800] comprised dark brown sandy-silt of loose consistency.

Deposit [800] was removed by mechanical excavator, exposing the underlying context [801] which measured 0.3m in thickness. This context comprised a mixed loose deposit of crushed limestone fragments, mixed with dark brown sandy-silt, similar in composition to context [800]. Context [801] contained occasional inclusions of large sandstone blocks. This context was interpreted as a residual deposit associated with the instatement of the concrete hard-standing to the south. It is possible that building material was stockpiled in this area prior to use on site or elsewhere.

Context [801] was removed with the use of a mechanical excavator, exposing the underlying deposit of subsoil. This deposit [802], comprised a mid orange-brown deposit of sandy silt with frequent small inclusions of sandstone fragments. The context covered the whole area of the trench, and measured 0.35-0.4m in thickness, and was homogenous throughout the excavated extent (**illustration 5c**). The deposit was removed with a mechanical excavator, exposing the underlying natural.

The trench was then cleaned by hand and photographed (**plate 10**). The presence of two cut features in the base of the trench became apparent during cleaning. Cut [803], located close to the south-east end of the trench was sub-oval in plan, measuring 1.16m in length, 0.91m in width and 0.35m deep. Excavation of the feature exposed an intact and articulated pig skeleton (**plate 11, section 4.2**). The fill [804] comprised a deposit of dark brown sandy-silt with frequent orange-brown mottles. The context also contained substantial quantities of lime, which was persistent enough to form a discrete layer around the skeleton (**illustration 7b**). The lime had undergone a chemical change whilst *in situ*, forming concretions of such density that judicious use of a small pick was required to loosen the deposit. A single small fragment of pottery was recovered during the excavation of the feature; although this fragment was probably medieval (**section 4.1**), its small size and abraded condition suggests the possibility of residual inclusion within the feature.

The other feature in Trench 8 was situated at the north end of the trench, and was orientated east-west. The feature was linear in plan and ascribed context number [805] for the cut, and [806] for the fill. The cut was gently sloping in profile with a dished base (**plate 12**). Fill [806] comprised a mid brown clay-silt, which was mostly homogenous with a thin pale lens interposed between the main fill and the base of the cut. Deposit [806] was sampled according to standard guidelines. The samples were then removed from site for subsequent specialist analysis (see **section 4.3**). The ditch measured 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep (**illustration 7a**). Three sherds of pottery were recovered from the base of the fill. These sherds had a secure stratigraphical provenance from the base of the ditch fill [806], and were subsequently identified as Hllam type ware and Buff gritty ware. Both of these types date from the late eleventh century to the early thirteenth century, but the individual sherds are likely to pre-date the thirteenth century (see **section 4.1**). A single sherd of ceramic was also recovered from within the top 0.05m of the fill as excavated. Although this sherd was identified as Cistercian ware or possibly an early type of late Blackware (see **section 4.1**), it can be interpreted as a stray artefact from later use of the site which subsequently became incorporated into the top of the ditch fill.

### 3.9 Trench 9

Trench 9 was located in the centre of the grassed area of site adjacent to Snydale Road. The trench measured 15m by 2m, and was orientated northeast-southwest (**illustration 3f**). The local ground cover consisted of grass and light scrub, with the land sloping down towards the north-east. Mechanical excavation removed turf and overlying topsoil [900], which increased in depth towards the south-west. Topsoil

[900] measured between 0.23m and 1.1m in depth, and comprised a dark brown coarse gritty silt with occasional inclusions of sandstone, red brick fragments, slate and coal.

Upon removal of [900], the edge of a concrete and brick structure became visible in the north facing section (**illustration 4f**). The structure comprised a level concrete layer [901], which measured 0.1m in thickness and ran the entire length of the trench. Concrete [901] was supported by an underlying brick structure [902]. Structure [902] generally comprised a single layer of mixed red brick, with both hand-made and machine-made brick present, typically measuring 230 x 110 x 80mm. The coursing was occasionally irregular, with missing bricks at some points along the section, and double bricks at other points. This composite structure was interpreted as an earlier phase of yard-type surface, constructed from a re-used brick base and freshly mixed concrete.

The structure [901]-[902] was stratigraphically situated above the subsoil, further supporting the interpretation of the structure as a later addition to the built structures on site. Subsoil [903] comprised a dark grey-brown sandy-silt of firm consistency, and measured 0.12m in thickness (**plate 13**). Two small square features had been cut into [903], and subsequently filled with loose deposits composed of a mixture of deposits [900] and [903]. The features were ascribed context numbers [905] and [906], and were interpreted as modern cuts for the insertion of fence posts.

### 3.10 Trench 10

Trench 10 was located at the north-east edge of site, and was orientated approximately northwest-southeast, parallel to the adjacent Snydale Road, and measured 14m by 2m (**illustration 5d**). Initial mechanical excavation removed turf and overlying topsoil [1000] to a depth of 0.38m. Deposit [1000] comprised a dark black-brown fine silt of soft consistency, containing occasional stone and modern refuse inclusions, and evidence of root activity. The topsoil was homogenous, and was subsequently removed with a mechanical excavator to expose the underlying deposit [1001].

Context [1001] comprised a mixed deposit 0.4m deep, generally brown in colour with light yellow-brown and mid-grey-brown mottles. The deposit also contained occasional lenses of pink brick dust. This context was interpreted as a product of the continued landscaping of this area of site.

The context underlying [1001] was ascribed context number [1002], and comprised a dark grey deposit of fine gritty silt, containing occasional small stone inclusions. Fragments of ceramic and slag were recovered for analysis. The deposit measured 0.3m in thickness and was extensive across the trenching area (**plate 14**). The first slot dug into [1002] showed that the interface between [1002] and the underlying context [1003] was uneven, sloping down towards the north end of the trench. A second slot was subsequently excavated to assess the nature of this irregularity (**illustration 8**). This showed the irregularity to be generalised, rather than specific to any particular area. Context [1002] was therefore interpreted as a generalised levelling deposit. To support this interpretation, a tipped lens of orange-brown sandy-silt [1003] was identified within context [1002]. Subsequent excavation through these deposits showed that [1003] was only 0.25m thick, and exposed underlying deposit [1004]. This context comprised an even layer of soft grey-brown clay-silt, measuring between 0.4 and 0.65m in thickness. Excavation by hand established that [1004] was immediately overlying the base natural deposit [1005]. Therefore, [1004] was

interpreted as a potential former topsoil, which was sealed by subsequent landscaping activities.

### 3.11 Watching brief

A stone-lined well [505] was exposed by the demolition of the red brick workshop abutting the east end of the barn (**plates 15 and 16**). This well was recorded (**illustration 10**) and assessed with an auger to a depth of 3.1m at which point a consistently solid surface was encountered. The fill of the well [506] comprised mostly modern rubble backfill, although the basal 0.4m of fill consisted of fine grey silt which evolved a strong odour of hydrocarbons on excavation. The well was interpreted as a feature that may be contemporary with the original structures, although later and modern use of the well entailed the inclusion of pollutants which have rendered further analysis impossible. Given the inclusion of modern rubble with the backfill [506], it is highly likely that the augered deposits are representative of the latest use of the well as a drain or soak-away.

## 4 ARTEFACTS

### 4.1 Pottery

The pottery assemblage from Hanson House, Normanton, West Yorkshire was examined by the author on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008. It consisted of twenty-six sherds of pottery weighing 322 grams representing a maximum of twenty-five vessels. The data are summarised in Table 1.

The earliest pottery from the site was identified in contexts 804 and 806. Context 804 produced a single small and heavily abraded sherd of 12<sup>th</sup> century *Sandy ware* (Cumberpatch 2002:172). Context 806 produced two sherds of *Hillam type ware* (Cumberpatch 2002:173-174) and a sherd of the closely related *Buff Gritty ware* (Cumberpatch 2002:176). All of these sherds can be attributed to the earlier medieval period, most probably predating the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century.

The group from context 806 also included the base of a small cup or tyg which in form resembled a Cistercian ware cup but which differed significantly in terms of its fabric and pattern of glazing. Although listed in the data table as of Cistercian ware type and dated accordingly, there is considerable room for doubt over this identification and it is possible that it is of a later date and may even be an early example of Late Blackware, dating to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The remainder of the assemblage (from contexts 901, 902 and 1001) was of much later date with only the utilitarian wares from context 1001 possibly predating the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century (and even here a mid to later 19<sup>th</sup> century date would be perfectly possible to argue, given the long lifespan of the Yellow Glazed Coarseware tradition). The range of wares was dominated by various kinds of Whiteware bearing slip banded, transfer printed and overglaze designs, as described in Table 1. Utilitarian wares were represented by the Yellow Glazed Coarsewares mentioned above and by the sherds of stoneware from context 1001, one of which appears to be from a cooking vessel.

The pottery assemblage from Hanson House falls into two distinct parts. The earlier is of medieval date although with a post-medieval component represented by the sherd of possible Cistercian ware/Blackware. The second, larger component is of mid to later 19<sup>th</sup> and possibly early 20<sup>th</sup> century date and is entirely consistent with

the occupation of the existing house and ancillary structures.

No further work is required on this assemblage although should further excavation or related work on the site yield additional pottery, the present assemblage should be reviewed as part of a full report.

Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
804	C12th Sandy ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC11th - C12th	Very fine sandy textured sherd; heavily abraded
806	Buff Gritty ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC11th - EC13th	Sparse quartz and non-crystalline grit in a buff body
806	Cistercian type ware	1	22	1	Base	Cup/tyg	U/Dec	C16th - EC17th	Non-standard orange-red fabric with brown glaze int & ext
806	Hillam type ware	1	27	1	Rim	Jar/cooking pot	U/Dec	LC11th - EC13th	Typical square sectioned rim; white quartz tempered fabric
806	Hillam type ware	1	9	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC11th - EC13th	Ash-white ext; buff int; quartz temper with non-crystalline red grit
901	Stoneware	1	25	1	Handle	Flagon	Mottled iron-wash finish on lobate handle	M - LC19th	
901	Transfer printed White ware	1	9	1	Rim	Flatware	Blue-black floral design with cartouche	LC19th - EC20th	Blue-black floral design with cartouche
901	Transfer printed White ware	1	3	1	BS	Flatware	U/ID Black printed design int	M - LC19th	See also cxt 1001 for a similar sherd
902	Colour Glazed ware	1	14	1	BS	Hollow ware	Dark brown-black glaze ext on a white body	C19th	
902	Transfer printed White ware	2	18	2	Rim	Plate	Asiatic Pheasants	M - LC19th	One flaked
902	Transfer printed White ware	2	5	1	Footring base	Plate	Unidentified Chinese landscape, dark blue print	M - LC19th	
902	Wall tile	1	8	1	Fragment	Wall tile	Dark green glazed tile	MC19th - EC20th	
1001	Bone China	1	3	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Thin over-glaze gold line on top of rim	LC19th - EC20th	
1001	Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	8	1	BS	Bowl/dish	Brown ext, grey int	C19th	Cooking vessel
1001	Slip Banded White ware	1	5	1	BS/handle stump	Mug/jug	Brown band and thin blue lines ext	C19th	
1001	Stoneware	1	12	1	BS	Hollow ware	Grey finish int & ext on a buff stoneware body	C19th	
1001	Transfer printed White ware	1	5	1	Rim	Plate	Briar rose pattern on a stippled background	M - LC19th	



Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
1001	Transfer printed White ware	1	5	1	BS	Flatware	U/ID Black printed design int	M - LC19th	See also cxt 901 for a similar sherd
1001	Transfer printed White ware	1	3	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/ID transfer printed design int	M - LC19th	
1001	White ware	1	19	1	Semi-recessed base	pBowl	All-over blue finish int, white ext	M - LC19th	Probably a bowl
1001	White ware	1	6	1	Rim	Plate	U/Dec	M - LC19th	
1001	White ware	1	4	1	Rim	Plate	Yellow band on extreme edge of rim with thin gold line inside, relief moulded concentric ridges	M - LC19th	Could be early C20th
1001	Yellow Glazed Coarse ware	1	70	1	Rim	Pancheon	White slip under clear glaze int with unslipped red band on top of rim	C18th - C19th	Sharply everted rounded rim
1001	Yellow Glazed Coarse ware	1	40	1	Rim	Pancheon	White slip int on a red body with unslipped red band on rim	C18th - C19th	Sharply everted rim with thickened ext edge
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>25</b>					

**Table 1. Pottery from Hanson House, Normanton, West Yorkshire**

## 4.2 Animal Bone

The assemblage consisted of approximately 655 mammalian fragments from a single stratified context. The assemblage was rapidly identified and assessed to consider the assemblage's potential. Bone fragments were identified to a broad species level where possible and notes were made regarding the condition (preservation) of the bones within each context. Other features such as evidence of bone working (butchery) or pathology was also noted. No attempt was made to discern the differences between sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goat (*Capra hircus*). Where species identification was not possible, bone fragments were assigned to 'Large', 'Medium' and 'Small' mammal groups. 'Large mammal' refers to horse/cow sized animals, 'medium mammal' refers to sheep/pig/dog sized animals and 'small mammal' refers to rabbit/domestic cat sized animals.

The method used to record this assemblage follows a modified version of the Davies (1992) system. Under this system specific zones of each skeletal element are included as 'countable'. In mammals, these are: upper and lower teeth; mandibles with at least one tooth *in situ*; cranium; atlas; axis; scapula (glenoid cavity); distal humerus; distal radius; proximal ulna; pelvis; distal femur; distal tibia; astragalus; calcaneum; proximal metapodial; distal metapodial; phalanges 1, 2 and 3. Ribs and vertebrae are not considered 'countable' elements, but were examined macroscopically for evidence of butchery.

The elements examined were all identified as pig (*Sus scrofa*) and indicated that two individuals were present within context [804]. These are summarized in **Table 2**. Both individuals were fairly young with none of the long bone elements bearing completely fused epiphyses. The inclusion within the assemblage of four, separate unfused scapula (bicipital tuberosity), proximal radius and pelvis (acetabulum) indicate that both individuals were less than one year old at the time of death. The skulls of the two individuals showed different states of fusion and this, along with the presence of a partially fused distal humerus, would indicate that one of the individuals was slightly older than the other. One set of long bones also appeared to be slightly smaller than the other.

The countable elements, along with the vertebrae and ribs were all examined for evidence of butchery. No cut marks or evidence for sawing or chopping was present on any of the elements within the assemblage. The surface of the bone was slightly abraded due to the young age of the individuals, but this was judged not to have been sufficient to obscure cut marks on the surface.

The only identified taphonomic difference between the two individuals was that the smaller pair of femurs appeared to exhibit a greater degree of surface abrasion and degradation than any other elements within the assemblage.

No pathologies were noted on any of the elements.

The presence of two fairly complete, young individuals within a single context, and with no evidence for butchery, is interesting. Further analysis of the assemblage, however, is unlikely to yield any information of archaeological significance and is not recommended. It may be useful to retain the assemblage as part of a reference collection.

Context	Species	Element	L/R	Proximal	Distal	Notes
804	Pig	Mandible	L			
804	Pig	Mandible	L			
804	Pig	Mandible	R			
804	Pig	Mandible	R			
804	Pig	Skull				
804	Pig	Skull				Cranial cavity unfused (frontale + parietale)
804	Pig	Scapula	L	Unfused		
804	Pig	Scapula	L	Unfused		
804	Pig	Scapula	R	Unfused		
804	Pig	Scapula	R	Unfused		
804	Pig	Humerus	L	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Humerus	L	Unfused	Fusing	
804	Pig	Humerus	R	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Humerus	R	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Radius	L	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Radius	L	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Radius	R	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Radius	R	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Ulna	L	Unfused		
804	Pig	Ulna	L	Unfused		
804	Pig	Ulna	R	x		
804	Pig	Ulna	R	Unfused		
804	Pig	Pelvis	L	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Pelvis	L	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Pelvis	R	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Pelvis	R	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Femur	L	Unfused	Unfused	Appears more degraded than remainder of assemblage
804	Pig	Femur	L	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Femur	R	Unfused	Unfused	Appears more degraded than remainder of assemblage
804	Pig	Femur	R	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Tibia	L	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Tibia	L	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Tibia	R	Unfused	Unfused	
804	Pig	Tibia	R	Unfused	Unfused	

**Table 2:** Summary of 'Countable' Elements.

### 4.3 Archaeobotanical remains

This report summarises the findings arising out of the archaeobotanical assessment undertaken following an archaeological evaluation at Hanson House, Normanton, West Yorkshire (1198b). The evaluation uncovered two ditches in Trench 5 and Trench 8. Early medieval pottery was recovered from the ditch in Trench 8. The aim of this report was to ascertain the concentration and preservation of archaeobotanical material from the site and to evaluate their potential for establishing: (1) their relation to the post-medieval standing buildings; (2) spatial differentiation; and (3) the local environment.

The bulk samples were processed by flotation using a 300 micron mesh sieve. The flots were scanned using a low power zoom-stereo microscope. Identifications were made with reference to the author's modern seed reference collection, and Berggren (1981), Anderberg (1994) and Cappers, Bekker and Jans (2006). Recommendations for further analysis were based on the diversity, concentration and standard of preservation of the material. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (1997). The results are summarised in **Table 3**.

Context	Cut	Sample no.	Trench	Feature	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Content		Wood		Other	Details
							Chd	Des.	Char	Des.		
501	502	1	5	Ditch	10	1	*	*	0	-	Anthracite	<i>Triticum</i> sp.
806	805	2	8	Ditch	10	15	-	**	0	-	Anthracite	

**Table 3:** Hanson House Archaeobotanical Assessment.

Context 501 was sampled from ditch 502. One charred grain of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) was preserved. Desiccated seeds of orache (*Atriplex* sp.) were occasional. Charcoal and anthracite were also occasional.

Context 806 was sampled from ditch 805. Modern grass / roots made up the bulk of the flot; however occasional fragments of charcoal were present along with frequent desiccated seeds of orache. Anthracite was occasional.

Wheat is believed to have been one of the favoured cereals cultivated throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, and as such is one of the more frequent grains recovered. The density and diversity of charred material was low however which means that little can be interpreted except that wheat was consumed.

Orache grows mainly, though not always, in saline environments. It is also common on wasteground. It is probable that these seeds represent post-depositional material as their well preserved state would have required excellent conditions of preservation, and the site was not waterlogged. The presence of anthracite indicates the residue of an industrial process. Ditches were often the recipients of waste and this is the probable reason for the presence of the charcoal and grain.

The assemblages were too small to provide material viable for further interpretation. No further action is therefore recommended.

## 5 CONCLUSION

ARCUS were commissioned by Jones Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the surrounding environment of Hanson House, a complex of grade II listed buildings thought to have originated in the sixteenth century. Recent dendrochronological analysis of timbers from the buildings has provided dates of AD1455/6 (barn) and AD1448 (house).

The evaluation comprised a total of ten trenches evenly distributed around the site. Only two of trial trenches, Trenches 5 and 8, revealed features of archaeological interest. The trenches were located to the north (Trench 5) and east (Trench 8) of the listed stone built rectangular (barn) building. Two separate ditch features were identified, one of which contained several sherds of medieval pottery. The size and profile of the ditches suggests they were contemporary. Environmental assessment of the ditch fill samples was unable to provide any further information.

The presence of the two porcine skeletons in Trench 8 is somewhat unusual. Burial in lime is a common practice in agriculture as a methodology for the safe disposal of diseased carcasses. Their presence perhaps suggests that the vicinity of Trench 8 was not used for agriculture on a regular basis, but was waste or unenclosed land used for the dumping of refuse.

The evidence recovered to date suggests a limited amount of activity on the site in the medieval period, probably related to agricultural or domestic enclosures.

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## 7 PLATES AND ILLUSTRATIONS



Plate 1: Trench 1, east-facing.



Plate 2: Trench 2, east-facing.



Plate 3: Trench 3, south east-facing.



Plate 4: Trench 4, east-facing.



Plate 5: Trench 5, west-facing.



Plate 6: Section through ditch [502], east-facing shot.





Plate 7: Trench 6, north-facing.



Plate 8: Trench 6, east-facing section through feature [602].



Plate 9: Trench 7, east facing.



Plate 10: Trench 8, north facing.



Plate 11: Pig skeleton in cut [803], Trench 8.



Plate 12: Section through ditch [805], Trench 8.



Plate 13: Trench 9, west-facing.



Plate 14: Trench 10, south-facing.



Plate 15: Trench 10, north-facing.



Plate 16: Well [505], southwest facing.



Plate 17: Well [505], northwest facing.

## APPENDIX A: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Site sub-division	Context number	Context type	Description
Trench 1	100	Deposit	Topsoil
Trench 1	101	Deposit	Subsoil
Trench 1	102	Deposit	Natural
Trench 2	200	Deposit	Topsoil
Trench 2	201	Deposit	Subsoil
Trench 2	202	Deposit	Natural
Trench 3	300	Deposit	Topsoil
Trench 3	301	Deposit	Subsoil
Trench 3	302	Deposit	Natural
Trench 4	400	Structure	Concrete hardstanding
Trench 4	401	Deposit	Bedding layer for 400
Trench 4	402	Deposit	Light brown made ground
Trench 4	403	Deposit	Natural
Trench 5	500	Deposit	Black made ground
Trench 5	501	Deposit	Fill of 502
Trench 5	502	Cut	Ditch orientated east-west
Trench 5	503	Deposit	Subsoil
Trench 5	504	Deposit	Natural
WB	505	Structure	Well
WB	506	Fill	Fill of well [505]
Trench 6	600	Structure	Concrete
Trench 6	601	Deposit	Fill of 602
Trench 6	602	Cut	Medium-sized shallow pit
Trench 6	603	Deposit	Subsoil
Trench 6	604	Deposit	Natural
Trench 7	700	Structure	Concrete
Trench 7	701	Deposit	Black made ground
Trench 7	702	Deposit	Subsoil
Trench 7	703	Deposit	Natural
Trench 8	800	Deposit	Topsoil
Trench 8	801	Deposit	Limestone hardcore rubble
Trench 8	802	Deposit	Mid orange-brown stony subsoil
Trench 8	803	Cut	Small oval cut in centre of trench
Trench 8	804	Deposit	Fill of 803, contains porcine skeleton.
Trench 8	805	Cut	Linear ditch cut, orientated east-west.
Trench 8	806	Deposit	Fill of 805
Trench 8	807	Deposit	Natural
Trench 9	900	Deposit	Topsoil
Trench 9	901	Structure	Concrete in north-facing section
Trench 9	902	Structure	Brick structure in north-facing section

<b>Site sub-division</b>	<b>Context number</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>
Trench 9	903	Deposit	Subsoil
Trench 9	904	Deposit	Natural
Trench 10	1000	Deposit	Topsoil
Trench 10	1001	Deposit	Mixed brown layer
Trench 10	1002	Deposit	Black layer
Trench 10	1003	Deposit	Orange lense
Trench 10	1004	Deposit	Grey-brown layer
Trench 10	1005	Deposit	Natural



## APPENDIX B: WYAAS SPECIFICATION